

# CAREER FOCUS

## DANTES— College credit without taking classes? You bet!

**BY MASTER SGT. DAVID HALVORSON**  
TEAM KIRTLAND career assistance advisor

Today there are many educational alternatives to the traditional classroom. People learn in a variety of ways such as on-the-job training, independent or self-study, correspondence courses and general life experiences.

Most of us know how difficult it is to take classes while working full time, and this is where the DANTES program can help you.

The mission of the Defense Activities for Non-Traditional Education Support program is to support the DOD's off-duty, voluntary education programs. To meet this task DANTES sponsors a wide range of examination programs to assist service members in meeting their educational goals.

One of the more popular programs uses the DANTES Subject Standardized Tests used by colleges and universities to award college credit to those who demonstrate that they have knowledge comparable to someone who completed the classroom course in the subject.

Sounds good, doesn't it? Well hold on bluesuiters, it gets even better. DANTES Subject Standardized Tests exams are free for military members (civilian costs are about \$45 per test) and you can earn up to 30 semester hours toward your degree program (be sure to check with your college or university to ensure the credits meet your degree requirements).

By taking a DANTES Subject Standardized Tests exam, you can jumpstart a college education, work toward that promotion you want, or avoid sitting in classes where you already know the material from previous experience. You can even take practice tests for a small fee



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to assess your knowledge level before taking the actual test. And you'd be counted among more than 80,000 people who annually sit for the exam.

For more information on DANTES program particulars, logon to the DANTES Web site at [www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes\\_web/danteshome.asp?Flag=True](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/danteshome.asp?Flag=True) or try the DSST home page at [www.getcollegcredit.com/](http://www.getcollegcredit.com/). Another good resource is [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

For that personal touch, call your Base Education Center for an appointment at 846-8955.

# COMMENTARY

## Who is the warfighter?

**BY LT. GEN. WILLIAM LOONEY**  
Aeronautical Systems Center Commander

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio (AFMCNS)—** Since I relinquished command of an operational fighter wing in 1996, I've heard a phrase over and over again that has truly left me confused—"support to the warfighter."

Not that the phrase is confusing—on the contrary, it's straight forward and meaningful, especially to warfighters! What's confusing is the types of people using the phrase, and the fact they consider themselves "support to the warfighter."

From my perspective, "support to the warfighter" is provided by the American people and the U.S. Congress.

The American people provide the national will and funds for the military to wage war when required, and the Congress provides authorization for war and the expenditure of funds to support the military. To me, this is a clear and concise definition of "support to the warfighter."

I become confused when individuals I consider warfighters classify themselves as "support to the warfighter." I believe that if you belong to an organization that's in the warfighting business, you must be a warfighter—it's not a term just reserved for those in the heat of battle!

Trust me, I appreciate our warriors in harm's way, but without capabilities such as stealth, precision attack, command and

control, UAVs, etc, our victories would take much longer and our losses would be much higher.

The capabilities Air Force Materiel Command acquirers put into the hands of our operators are crucial to all our warfighting operations' success.

Some may consider this a small point or an over reaction to a harmless phrase. However, I believe words are important and what we identify with is just as important.

America's warfighting team is made up of operators, acquirers, scientists, contractors and industry partners—uniformed and civilian. And together we are the most powerful, potent force the world has ever seen!

In these difficult times, the forces of terror challenge our values and beliefs as never before. Our nation has turned to its warfighting team to meet that challenge.

The American people and Congress will provide the support—then they'll look to us to bring home the victory.

I titled this article with a question—Who is the Warfighter? Hopefully I've made it clear that regardless of your role in AFMC, you too are a critical part of America's warfighting team.

Our contribution to our country in this challenging time is HUGE and you should be very proud of what you do and who you are—an American Warfighter!



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# Nicholson, Montoya win Air Force awards

Vince Montoya and Rav Nicholson were recognized with the Equal Employment Opportunity awards from the Air Force.

Mr. Montoya, of the 377th Civil Engineer Division, received the Air Force Distinguished EEO Award for his work in the American Indian and Alaskan Native Employment Program category.

Ms. Nicholson, of the 377th Air Base Wing Equal Employment Opportunity and Mediation Office, received her award for her work in the Selective Placement Program.

The two TEAM KIRTLAND members were among eight other civilian and military award recipients Air Force-wide recognized for their “outstanding support and contributions to the objectives of the Air Force civilian EEO and affirmative employment programs.”

Each person received a plaque, letter and certificate signed by the Secretary of the Air Force.



Rav Nicholson



Vince Montoya



Photo by Todd Berenger

## 377th Dental Squadron sponsors Children’s Dental Health Month

**BY STAFF SGT. DERRICK RAYTON**  
377th Dental Squadron

It is that time again, February is National Children’s Dental Health Month and members of the 377th Dental Squadron will be visiting elementary classrooms to bring this dental message to our young family members.

National Children Dental Health Month is an annual event by the American Dental Association to promote awareness of the importance of children’s oral health.

The theme for this year is “A Healthy Smile Is Always In Style.” To help maintain that smile members of the Dental Squadron will be providing oral hygiene demonstrations and discussing oral health topics with some Kirtland kids.

Planned visits are:

- ★ Feb. 5, 9:45 a.m., Kirtland Elementary (second grade)
- ★ Feb. 10, 9 a.m., East Gibson Child Development Center
- ★ Feb. 12, 9 a.m., Sandia Base Elementary (second grade)
- ★ Feb. 12, 12:45 p.m., Wherry Elementary (second grade)
- ★ Feb. 17, 9 a.m., Maxwell Child Development Center

For more information, please contact the 377th Dental Clinic at 846-3027.

Dental Laboratory technician Senior Airman Renee Sidorowicz, 377th Dental Squadron, works on a crown for a patient.